

CBA boys basketball coach reaches 550 career wins; only 2 active Section III coaches have more

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Christian Brothers Academy boys basketball coach Buddy Wleklinski earned his 550th career win during a boys basketball matchup against Cazenovia on Wednesday. Rich Barnes | Contributing photographer

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Christian Brothers Academy boys basketball coach Buddy Wleklinski has racked up 550 victories in his nearly 40 years coaching at the school.

That places him third among all active Section III boys basketball coaches.

“I just feel you’re fortunate to be around some great groups of young men every year, and that we’ve been fortunate that they play hard for us,” Wleklinski said. “It’s really been a lot of fun and a lot of fun over the years. We’ve had some great teams, and that’s not necessarily anything to do with us as coaches. The players are the ones that win the games.”

Wleklinski’s 550th career win came against Cazenovia in an Onondaga High School League matchup Wednesday night. Seniors [Braeden Burns](#) and [Luke Boule](#) combined for 24 points to give the Brothers a 66-32 victory.

“Our kids played really hard (Wednesday night),” Wleklinski said. “They shared the ball. They’re really starting to grasp what we’re trying to do offensively. We had 14 out of our 15 guys score. We’re moving the ball. We’re supporting each other. It’s just a good feel.”

The Lakers were led by sophomore [Ben Bianco](#)’s 12 points.

Wleklinski credits Wednesday’s milestone to his coaching staff — which includes his assistant of over 30 years, Eddie Leone — his players over the years, the CBA community and his family.

“Our family, with the time that I’m spending away, our family’s really supportive,” he said. “My wife, Patty, and Alyssa, my daughter, they’re supportive as hell. So they’re very supportive. So it’s been a family affair.”

The longtime CBA coach now sits behind only Bob McKinney (Jamesville-DeWitt/Bishop Grimes, 630), Tom Blackford (Hamilton/Fayetteville-Manlius, 592), Pat Donnelly (East Syracuse-Minoa/Bishop Ludden 571), and Mike Adey (Rome Catholic/New York Mills/New Hartford, 567) on the career wins leaderboard for Section III.

McKinney and Blackford are the only active coaches ahead of Wleklinski in Section III.

“There were so many games over the years that we’ve played, and to be honest with you, some of the ones that you remember most aren’t even ones that you won,” Wleklinski said. “We’ve been fortunate to win a lot of games.”

Wleklinski, McKinney and Donnelly are all enshrined in the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame.

The Brothers (6-2) have a tough slate of road games over the next two weeks. They face Syracuse Academy of Science at 7 p.m. Friday, state-ranked No. 2 Bishop Timon (Class B) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Chittenango — the only Section III team to beat CBA this season — on Tuesday, and Bishop Grimes on Jan. 13.

“We’re in a good place right now,” Wleklinski said. “I’m really happy with how the team’s coming along. It’ll be an interesting stretch over the next week or so. I like where we are. Looking forward to just seeing how we match up against the teams we’ve got coming forward. It should be a lot of fun.”



Buddy Wleklinski talks to his players during a timeout in CBA's 67-47 home win over Solvay this evening. It mark career win No. 500 for Wleklinski, who is in his 36th season of guiding the Brothers basketball varsity. (Roger Hagan Photography)

CBA basketball coach Buddy Wleklinski glances up at Westhill's Scott Ungerer as he passes by during their 1997 scrimmage at Westhill. (Suzanne Dunn photo)

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